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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Office of the General Counsel

FROM : Chief, Travel Section, Finance Division

SUBJECT: Shipment and Storage of Household Effects

DATE: 12 January 1955

1. This section has the responsibility of auditing and certifying claims presented by employees for shipment and storage of their household effects in connection with a permanent change of station.

2. Vouchers presented must be audited in accordance with various regulations. Domestic shipments of household effects, as well as shipments to territories of the U. S., must be audited and certified in accordance with Executive Order 9805 dated 25 November 1946 as amended, and as interpreted by Decisions of the Comptroller General. Vouchers presented for shipments of household effects to overseas areas, other than territories or possessions, must be audited in accordance with Agency regulations, F.S.T.R. and J. T. R. Opinions by your office, as well as decisions of the Comptroller General, have been utilized to interpret these regulations and to solve problems which arise from the presentation of claims by employees.

3. This section is frequently confronted with claims which require interpretation of the various regulations. Therefore, I would like to present questions which arise upon receipt of various claims. The questions are in general form, not referencing any actual claim.

4. Case 1

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Employee is transferred from Washington, D. C., to [REDACTED] on permanent change of station. He is authorized to ship his household effects to his new station. The individual decides to ship part of his effects to his overseas post and elects to ship the remainder of his effects to his residence in the U. S., the basis for the claim being that it is cheaper for the Government to ship his household effects to a point less distant than in the authorization.

This section does not know of any regulation which authorizes shipment of household effects to a point other than that designated in the travel authorization. Comptroller General Decisions, Volume 23-886 and 23-970 approved claims for shipment to intermediate points but only under the adverse conditions cited in those instances. I would like your opinion as to whether those decisions would authorize shipment in the instance presented above.

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5. Case 2

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Employee is transferred from Washington, D. C., to a territory or possession such as the [REDACTED]. He is authorized to ship 8750 pounds of household effects in accordance with Executive Order 9805. He ships 3000 pounds and stores the balance (say 4000 pounds) of his effects. He submits a claim for the cartage from his house to the storage company and the necessary labor for putting it into storage. This claim is also submitted because it is cheaper to the Government to pay the cartage and incidental labor charges to put his household effects into storage than it is to ship it to his overseas station. No claim is made for the actual storage charges inasmuch as storage is not authorized.

This section does not know of any regulation which permits the payment of expenses in connection with storage when storage, itself, is not authorized.

6. Case 3

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An employee is transferred from [REDACTED], to Washington, D. C., on permanent change of station. He ships household effects from his overseas post to Washington, D. C. He also had some household effects at his original home in the U. S. These effects were not shipped to his overseas post. He now claims reimbursement for transporting these effects to his new station.

If these effects may be transported at Government expense, (similar to case one above) then the question arises as to which regulation applies to the shipment.

This office has taken the position that the shipment is in accordance with regulations that apply to shipment of household effects to or from areas outside of the U. S. The authority for shipment is a travel order issued in connection with overseas travel. (Return to the U. S.) However, this office would like your interpretation as to whether the commuted rate (Executive Order 9805 for domestic travel) for shipment of household effects would apply for that portion of the household effects which were shipped tentively within the U. S. [REDACTED] dated 9 April 1954, it should be noted, stated that any field employee who shipped household effects within the U. S. could claim reimbursement in accordance with the commuted rate.

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7. Your answers will enable this section to render faster service to employees of the Agency and, at the same time, permit us to fulfill our obligations and responsibilities.

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[REDACTED]

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